

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-51. (Cancelled)

52. (New) A computer-implemented method for displaying an image, the method comprising:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;  
obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image;  
causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having the third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein causing display of the message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first

display clarity comprises causing display of the message to the user with the displayed obscured version of the image.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein causing display of the message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity comprises causing display of the message to the user in response to receiving image data.

55. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the third display clarity is the same as the first display clarity.

56. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the third display clarity is lower than the first display clarity.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the user input is first user input and the enhanced version of the image is a first enhanced version of the image, further comprising:

subsequent to causing display of the first enhanced version of the image to the user, receiving, from the user, second user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the first enhanced version of the image; and

in response to the second user input, causing display of a second enhanced version of the image to the user, the second enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image, the obscured version of the image, and the first enhanced version of the image, and having a fourth display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image and that is higher than the third display clarity of the first enhanced version of the image.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the fourth display clarity is the same as the first display clarity.

59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the fourth display clarity is lower than the first display clarity.

60. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising:  
enabling the user to provide a sharpen user input command to indicate a willingness to sharpen the obscured version of the image; and  
enabling the user to provide an accept user input command to indicate a willingness to accept the image at the first display clarity,  
wherein:

receiving, from the user, user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image comprises receiving the sharpen user input command or the accept user input command;

conditioned on the user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image being the sharpen user input command, the enhanced version of the image is a second obscured version of the image having a third display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image; and

conditioned on the user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image being the accept user input command, the enhanced version of the image is a full version of the image having a third display clarity that is the same as the first display clarity.

61. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising:  
receiving, from the user, a reject user input command;  
in response to receiving the reject user input command, preventing display of the image at the first display clarity.

62. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising:  
receiving, from the user, a warn user input command indicating that other users are to be warned that the image is objectionable.

63. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image without human intervention.

64. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein:

obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises, in response to receiving image data, obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image based on the received image data.

65. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein obscuring the clarity of the image and causing display of the obscured version of the image occur at a client computer system.

66. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the user is a first user and the image is made available for display, using a host system, to the first user by a second user that is different than the first user.

67. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein the image is made available for display, using the host system, to the first user by receiving image data from the host system based on an electronic message sent from the second user to the first user.

68. (New) At least one computer-readable storage medium storing at least one computer program, the at least one computer program having instructions for:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;  
obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image;  
causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having the third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

69. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 68 wherein causing display of the message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity comprises causing display of the message to the user with the displayed obscured version of the image.

70. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 68 wherein causing display of the message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity comprises causing display of the message to the user in response to receiving image data.

71. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 68 wherein the third display clarity is the same as the first display clarity.

72. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 68 wherein the third display clarity is lower than the first display clarity.

73. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 72 wherein the user input is first user input and the enhanced version of the image is a first enhanced version of the image, further comprising instructions for:

subsequent to causing display of the first enhanced version of the image to the user, receiving, from the user, second user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the first enhanced version of the image; and

in response to the second user input, causing display of a second enhanced version of the image to the user, the second enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image, the obscured version of the image, and the first enhanced version of the image, and having a fourth display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image and that is higher than the third display clarity of the first enhanced version of the image.

74. (New) The at least one computer-readable storage medium of claim 68 further comprising:

enabling the user to provide a sharpen user input command to indicate a willingness to sharpen the obscured version of the image; and

enabling the user to provide an accept user input command to indicate a willingness to accept the image at the first display clarity,

wherein:

receiving, from the user, user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image comprises receiving the sharpen user input command or the accept user input command;

conditioned on the user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image being the sharpen user input command, the enhanced version of the image is a second obscured version of the image having a third display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image; and

conditioned on the user input indicating the willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image being the accept user input command, the enhanced version of the image is a full version of the image having a third display clarity that is the same as the first display clarity.

75. (New) A computer system comprising:

means for accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

means for obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image;

means for causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

means for causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

means for receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

means for, in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having the third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

76. (New) A computer-implemented method for displaying an image, the method comprising:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

obscuring the clarity of the image to create a first obscured version of the image;

causing display of the first obscured version of the image to a user, the first obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

subsequent to causing display of the first obscured version of the image, receiving, from the user, first user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the first obscured version of the image;

in response to the first user input, causing display of a second obscured version of the image to the user, the second obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and the first obscured version of the image, and having a third display clarity that is higher

than the second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

subsequent to causing display of the second obscured version of the image, receiving, from the user, second user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the second obscured version of the image; and

in response to the second user input, causing display of a third version of the image to the user, the third version of the image having the same display size as the image, the first obscured version of the image, and the second obscured version of the image, and having a fourth display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is higher than the third display clarity of the second obscured version of the image.

77. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the fourth display clarity is the same as the first display clarity.

78. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the fourth display clarity is lower than the first display clarity.

79. (New) The method of claim 76 further comprising:

causing display of a message to the user with the first obscured version of the image, the message indicating that the first obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity.

80. (New) The method of claim 76 further comprising:

causing display of a message to the user with the second obscured version of the image, the message indicating that the second obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity.

Applicant : James Crawford  
Serial No. : 10/780,706  
Filed : February 19, 2004  
Page : 10 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-098002

81. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image without human intervention.